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EXAMINER

PHAN, JOSEPH T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2645

DATE MAILED: 02/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/073,238

Applicant(s)

POTTS ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph T. Phan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 December 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-33 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cawla, Patent #5,812,640 in view of (Astegiano et al., Patent #4,706,270 and/or Erwin et al, S.I.R. Reg. #H1,802).

Regarding claim 1, Chawla teaches a system for providing recorded announcements on a communications network comprising: at least one central terminal for routing communications on the communication network by receiving incoming calls and routing the incoming calls to a destination on the communications network and the at least one central terminal being in communication with the network(*Fig.1; central terminal is interpreted as CO 12*);

an announcement service node coupled to the at least one central terminal further comprising a data schema and an application server for accessing the data schema, wherein the application server is accessible by one or more central terminals coupled to the communications network and, wherein said data schema comprises a storage mass for storing a plurality of recorded announcements that include information for callers on the communications network(*col.5 lines 57-67; announcement frame is*

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service node/data schema),

wherein a call from an individual is connected to the at least one central terminal with the at least one central terminal receiving an appropriate recorded announcement from the announcement service node while the call from the individual is connected to the at least one central terminal so as to audibly convey information to the calling individual as the recorded announcement is played from the at least one central terminal during the call (*Fig.3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 22 and col.9 lines 30-65*).

Chawla is silent on disclosing that the central terminal comprises a digital signal processor to convert digital packet files to voice signals.

Astegiano and Erwin discloses using a digital processor to convert digital packet files to voice files(Astegiano col.6 line 66-col.7 line 9 and Erwin col.10 lines 54-67 and col.11 lines 36-47).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to convert digital files to voice signals as taught by Astegiano and Erwin as they along with Chawla teach provisioning announcement data to provide to a caller.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this as Erwin is silent on expressly disclosing that his announcement server stores the announcements as digital files but discloses that the announcements are audibly played to the caller.

Storing announcements as digital data is not novel as RAM and hard-drives for storing data digitally are old and well-known in the art(as taught by Astegiano and Erwin).

Digitally storing data has been well known and used since Astegiano and Erwin

because of the efficiency gains over analog storage.

It is also noted that converting digital files to voice signals using a digital signal processor is inherent when performing the conversion, Chawla teaches that the central offices has digital signal processors to create and decode digital packets from the AIN network(Chawla col. 9 lines 15-39).

Regarding claim 2, Chawla in view of Astegiano or Erwin teaches a system according to claim 1, wherein said storage mass comprises a relational database (Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65);

Regarding claim 3, Chawla in view of Astegiano or Erwin teaches a system according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said stored recording announcements are in the form of Lightweight Directory Access Protocol(Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65);

Regarding claim 4, Chawla in view of Astegiano or Erwin teaches a system according to claim 1, further comprising an SS7 network, wherein at least one central terminal initiates queries to said announcement service node via the SS7 network (Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65);

Regarding claim 5, Chawla in view of Astegiano or Erwin teaches a system according to claim 4, wherein said central terminal comprises a central office of a telephone service network(Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65);

Regarding claim 6, Chawla in view of Astegiano or Erwin teaches a system

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according to claim 5, wherein said central office initiates queries to said announcement service node in X.25 protocol(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*); (*Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22*)(X.25 is a well-known design choice protocol).

Regarding claim 7, Chawla in view of Astegiano or Erwin teaches a system according to claim 1, comprising a plurality of central offices of a telephone service provider coupled to the service node of the telephone service provider (*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*);

Regarding claim 8, Chawla teaches an application server system for accessing a database at a service node in a communications network comprising;
a plurality of central offices connected to the network means for accessing the database connected to said network for storing recorded announcements in response to queries from one or more of said plurality of central offices, wherein the recorded announcements include information for users who place calls on the communication network; means for storing and dynamically maintaining the recorded announcements stored in the database; and
means for providing recorded announcements to at least one central office on the network upon a call from an individual being connected to the central office where the means for providing is separate from the at least one central office and maintains a communication link to the at least one central office such that the recorded announcement is provided from the means for storing the recorded announcements to the at least one central office while the call from the individual is connected to the

central office such that the recorded announcement audibly conveys information to the calling individual as the recorded announcement is played from the central office during the call(*Chawla Fig.1-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 30-65*).

Chawla is silent on disclosing that the central terminal comprises an announcement digital signal processor, wherein the digital processor converts one or more digital packet files to voice signals.

Astegiano and Erwin discloses using a digital processor to convert digital packet files to voice files(*Astegiano col.6 line 66-col.7 line 9 and Erwin col.10 lines 54-67 and col.11 lines 36-47*).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to convert digital files to voice signals as taught by Astegiano and Erwin as they along with Chawla teach provisioning announcement data to provide to a caller.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this as Erwin is silent on expressly disclosing that his announcement server stores the announcements as digital files but discloses that the announcements are audibly played to the caller.

Storing announcements as digital data is not novel as RAM and hard-drives for storing data digitally are old and well-known in the art(as taught by Astegiano and Erwin).

Digitally storing data has been well known and used since Astegiano and Erwin because of the efficiency gains over analog storage.

It is also noted that converting digital files to voice signals using a digital signal processor is inherent when performing the conversion, Chawla teaches that the central

offices has digital signal processors to create and decode digital packets from the AIN network(Chawla col. 9 lines 15-39).

Regarding claim 9, Chawla in view of Astegiano or Erwin teaches a server according to claim 8, wherein said database comprises a relational database(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*);

Regarding claim 10, Chawla in view of Astegiano or Erwin teaches a server according to claim 8, wherein said database is in the form of Lightweight Directory Access Protocol(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*);

Regarding claim 11, Chawla in view of Astegiano or Erwin teaches a server according to claim 9, wherein said relational database is dynamically updateable by an external administrator(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*);

Regarding claim 12, Chawla in view of Astegiano or Erwin teaches a server according to claim 8, wherein said means for storing recorded announcements is updateable by an external administrator(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*).

Regarding claim 13, Chawla in view of Astegiano or Erwin teaches a server according to claim 8, comprising means for retrieving a caller's file based on a query from a central office of a telephone communication network(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*).

Regarding claim 14, Chawla teaches a system for routing files of recorded announcements on a communications network, the system comprising: a switch circuit

coupled to the communications network and being connected to an individual who has placed a call; at least one recorded announcement file coupled to the switch circuit via a trunk network while the switch is connected to the individual who has placed the call, a service node for storing recorded announcements, said service node coupled to the switch circuit and accessible by a plurality of switch networks on the communications network, the at least one recorded announcement file including information for the individual who places calls on the communications network;

a plurality of applications coupled to the service node for sending queries to the service node and routing means for providing recorded announcements from the service node to one or more users of the communications network through the switch in response to the queries from the applications, wherein the recorded announcements audibly convey information to the one or more users as the recorded announcement is played from the switch and through the routing means during the call(*Fig.3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 22 and col.9 lines 30-65*).

Chawla is silent on disclosing that the central terminal comprises a digital signal processor to convert digital packet files to voice signals.

Astegiano and Erwin discloses using a digital processor to convert digital packet files to voice files(Astegiano col.6 line 66-col.7 line 9 and Erwin col.10 lines 54-67 and col.11 lines 36-47).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to convert digital files to voice signals as taught by Astegiano and Erwin as they along with Chawla teach provisioning announcement data to provide to a

caller.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this as Erwin is silent on expressly disclosing that his announcement server stores the announcements as digital files but discloses that the announcements are audibly played to the caller.

Storing announcements as digital data is not novel as RAM and hard-drives for storing data digitally are old and well-known in the art(as taught by Astegiano and Erwin).

Digitally storing data has been well known and used since Astegiano and Erwin because of the efficiency gains over analog storage.

It is also noted that converting digital files to voice signals using a digital signal processor is inherent when performing the conversion, Chawla teaches that the central offices has digital signal processors to create and decode digital packets from the AIN network(Chawla col. 9 lines 15-39).

Regarding claim 15, Chawla in view of Astegiano or Erwin teaches a system according to claim 14, comprising: at least one database containing a plurality of files related to users of said network, wherein the at least one database is coupled to the service node(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*);

Regarding claim 16, Chawla in view of Astegiano or Erwin teaches a system according to claim 14, wherein said communications network is an Intranet system (*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*);

Regarding claim 17, Chawla in view of Astegiano or Erwin teaches a system according to claim 14, wherein said communications network is an Internet system

(Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65);

Regarding claim 18, Chawla in view of Astegiano or Erwin teaches a system according to claim 14, where said service node comprises means for translating protocol for recorded messages for a switch on the communications network(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*).

Regarding claim 19, Chawla in view of Astegiano or Erwin teaches a system according to claim 14, comprising means for matching a user's communication with a trigger on the communications network(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*).

Regarding claim 20, Chawla in view of Astegiano or Erwin teaches a system according to claim 19, comprising means for identifying a user's recorded announcement file based at least in part on the matched user's communication (*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*).

Regarding claims 21, 24, and 25, Chawla teaches a centralized recorded announcement system, method, and computer-readable medium for providing recorded announcements to devices on a telephone service provider network, the system comprising: means and steps for triggering a request for a recorded announcement, the recorded announcement including information for users who place calls on the telephone service provider network;
means and steps for identifying a requested recorded announcement, retrieving, in response to a request for an announcement from a device, at least one recorded announcement file from a centralized storage mass coupled to the centralized

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announcement system and the network of said telephone service provider ;means and steps for sending a recorded announcement request to a database, means and steps for updating said database based on current recorded announcements of said system; and means and steps for sending an identified recorded announcement from said database to a device of the telephone service provider network while the device of the service provider network is connected to a user who has placed a call on the telephone service provider network; means for audibly conveying/playing a recorded announcement file from a central office to the user or customer who has placed a call on the telephone service provider network by playing the message from the device of the telephone service for the customer during the call(*Fig.3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 22 and col.9 lines 30-65*).

Chawla is silent on disclosing that the central terminal comprises a digital signal processor to convert digital packet files to voice signals.

Astegiano and Erwin discloses using a digital processor to convert digital packet files to voice files(Astegiano col.6 line 66-col.7 line 9 and Erwin col.10 lines 54-67 and col.11 lines 36-47).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to convert digital files to voice signals as taught by Astegiano and Erwin as they along with Chawla teach provisioning announcement data to provide to a caller.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this as Erwin is silent on expressly disclosing that his announcement server stores the announcements as

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digital files but discloses that the announcements are audibly played to the caller.

Storing announcements as digital data is not novel as RAM and hard-drives for storing data digitally are old and well-known in the art(as taught by Astegiano and Erwin).

Digitally storing data has been well known and used since Astegiano and Erwin because of the efficiency gains over analog storage.

It is also noted that converting digital files to voice signals using a digital signal processor is inherent when performing the conversion, Chawla teaches that the central offices has digital signal processors to create and decode digital packets from the AIN network(Chawla col. 9 lines 15-39).

Regarding claim 22, Chawla in view of Astegiano or Erwin teaches a centralized recorded announcement system according to claim 21, comprising means for identifying a user of said service provider upon triggering a request for a recorded announcement(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*).

Regarding claim 23, Chawla in view of Astegiano or Erwin teaches a centralized recorded announcement system according to claim 22, comprising means for retrieving a recorded announcement file from said database for at least one identified user(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*).

Regarding claim 26, Chawla in view of Astegiano or Erwin teaches a method of providing recorded announcements to devices on a network according to claim 25, comprising the steps of identifying a user of said network based on a communication from the user's device on the network; and retrieving at least one recorded

announcement for the user based in part on the identification of said user(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*).

Regarding claim 27, Chawla in view of Astegiano or Erwin teaches a method of providing recorded announcements to devices on a network according to claim 26, comprising the step of identifying the user based on Dialed Number Identification Service (DNIS) (*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*).

Regarding claim 28, Chawla in view of Astegiano or Erwin teaches a method of providing recorded announcements to devices on a network according to claim 26, comprising the step of identifying the user based on a code dialed by said user(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*).

Regarding claim 29, Chawla in view of Astegiano or Erwin teaches a method of providing recorded announcements to devices on a network according to claim 26, comprising the step of-. identifying the user based on Automatic Number Identification (ANI) (*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*).

Regarding claim 30, Chawla in view of Astegiano or Erwin teaches a method of providing recorded announcements to devices on a network according to claim 26, comprising the step of coupling a plurality of queries for recorded announcements to said centralized announcement service node via an SS7 network(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*).

Regarding claim 31, Chawla in view of Astegiano or Erwin teaches a method of providing recorded announcements to devices on a network according to claim 26, comprising the steps of adding a recorded announcement to said centralized storage

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mass; and providing a translation to a switch on the network correlating to the added recorded announcement(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*).

Regarding claim 32, Chawla in view of Astegiano or Erwin teaches a method of providing recorded announcements to devices on a network according to claim 26, comprising the steps of prioritizing a plurality of queries for recorded announcements from one or more central offices on the network; and providing a plurality of recorded announcements to said one or more central offices on the network(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*);

Regarding claim 33, Chawla teaches a method for providing recorded announcements to users of a telecommunications system, the method comprising: a step for triggering a request for a recorded announcement by initiating a call on said system to a device of the telecommunications system, the recorded announcement including information for users who place calls on the telecommunications system; a step for generating a query for a recorded announcement from the device while the device is connected to the call, the query based at least in part on the recorded announcement request triggered from said user; a step for sending the query from the device while the device is connected to the call to one or more data storage schemas via a network, the query corresponding to one or more recorded announcement triggers initiated by the call;

a step for assembling the recorded announcement from available recorded phrases(*col.5 lines 60-64; as broadly interpreted, Chawla assembles the recorded*

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announcement to send to the caller from a variety of announcements, not necessarily assembles into one recorded announcement);

and a step for sending at least one recorded announcement to a user of the system in response to the query from the device, wherein sending the at least one recorded announcement to the user includes audibly conveying information to the user as the recorded announcement is played from the device of the telecommunications system during the call (*Fig.3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 22 and col.9 lines 30-65*).

Chawla is silent on disclosing that the central terminal comprises a digital signal processor to convert digital packet files to voice signals.

Astegiano and Erwin discloses using a digital processor to convert digital packet files to voice files(Astegiano col.6 line 66-col.7 line 9 and Erwin col.10 lines 54-67 and col.11 lines 36-47).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to convert digital files to voice signals as taught by Astegiano and Erwin as they along with Chawla teach provisioning announcement data to provide to a caller.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this as Erwin is silent on expressly disclosing that his announcement server stores the announcements as digital files but discloses that the announcements are audibly played to the caller.

Storing announcements as digital data is not novel as RAM and hard-drives for storing data digitally are old and well-known in the art(as taught by Astegiano and Erwin).

Digitally storing data has been well known and used since Astegiano and Erwin

because of the efficiency gains over analog storage.

It is also noted that converting digital files to voice signals using a digital signal processor is inherent when performing the conversion, Chawla teaches that the central offices has digital signal processors to create and decode digital packets from the AIN network(Chawla col. 9 lines 15-39).

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-33 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

In response to applicant's arguments of the prior art of record, Chawla not teaching the application server being accessible by more than one central office, examiner respectfully disagrees. As shown in Fig.1, CO/SSP's 12, 14 and 22 and taught in col.7 lines 1-22, col.8 lines 59-66, and col.9 lines 49-54, where Chawla's invention comprises of multiple configurations and supports that different C.O's can access the application server/announcement frame to provide announcements.

It is also noted that the term "central office" as defined in Newton's Telecom Dictionary 17th Edition, page 146, published in 2001, 'Central Office' can be interpreted as "a telephone company building where subscriber lines are joined to switching equipment" or can mean "*a single telephone switch or a public exchange*". Assuming arguendo, Chawla also teaches this interpretation of central offices or several different switches.

3. Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in

this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph T. Phan whose telephone number is (571) 272-7544. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on (571) 272-7547. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JTP
February 17, 2006



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